



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

May 2, 2023

Thomas Harris
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 94396
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9396

Dear Secretary Harris:

This letter transmits EPA's end of-year (EOY) evaluation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Injection and Mining Division (IMD) Underground Injection Control (UIC) program for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022). The EOY includes both UIC oversight and related Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) topics. Region 6 UIC oversight staff provided the draft FY 2022 program review to Mr. Steve Lee of your staff on April 6, 2023.

Oversight of State UIC programs remains a priority for Region 6. I commend the staff of LDNR IMD for achieving excellent results in their FY 2022 UIC grant work plan program targets despite restrictions coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, I would like to commend LDNR for their continued engagement with EPA in confronting difficult problems, such as the Cornerstone waste-mixing issue. In FY 2022, LDNR also continued to initiate program, regulatory, and legislative updates to work toward assuming Class VI primacy to the state of Louisiana.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this EOY evaluation, call me at (214) 665-8138, or your staff may call Mr. Ken E. Johnson at (214) 665-8473. If your staff has specific questions about UIC grant performance, please contact Mr. Michael Vaughan at (214) 665-7313; or questions about EPA's program oversight, please contact Ms. Sona Chaudhary at (214) 665-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Maguire", is positioned above the typed name.

Charles W. Maguire
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: (w/encl.) Mr. Steve Lee, P.G., Director, Injection and Mining Division
Ms. Kellie McNamara, P.E., Engineering Section Manager, Injection and Mining Division
Corey Shircliff, P.G., Geological Section Manager, Injection and Mining Division